

Date: 12/22/04

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM  
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AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : CIA  
RECORD NUMBER : 104-10072-10149  
RECORD SERIES : JFK  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 80T01357A

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 53199 Date:  
06-08-2017

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

AGENCY ORIGINATOR : CIA  
FROM :  
TO :  
TITLE : FIELD INFO REPORT: CUBAN ASSISTANCE AND INTERVENTION  
IN THE GUATEMALAN POLITICAL SITUATION.  
DATE : 05/01/1982  
PAGES : 3  
  
SUBJECTS : CUBA  
GUATEMALA  
INTERVENTION  
  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER  
CLASSIFICATION : SECRET  
RESTRICTIONS : 1A 1B  
CURRENT STATUS : RELEASED IN PART PUBLIC - RELEASED WITH DELETIONS  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/02/93  
COMMENTS : JFK15 : F59 : 1993.08.02.18:29:43:120033 : INCLUDES  
REPORT COVER SHEET.

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED 104-10072-10149

REPORT COVER SHEET

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CONTINUED CONTROVERSY

REPORT NO.

84M-6343

DATE OF REPORT

1 MAY 1962

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**UNCLASSIFIED DATA AND COMMENTS:**

The attached was taken from a report submitted by LINLUCK who met personally with Fernandes on the dates indicated.

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OPTIONAL: ENTRIES BELOW NEED NOT BE FILLED IN IF DUPLICATED IN ACCOMPANYING REPORT

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# FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A. Completely reliable. B. Usually reliable. C. Fairly reliable. D. Not usually reliable. E. Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F. Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or inadequately tested sources).  
 APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2. Probably true. 3. Possibly true. 4. Doubtful. 5. Probably false. 6. Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on original document.

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COUNTRY Cuba/Guatemala/Mexico

REPORT NO. HM-6343

SUBJECT Cuban Assistance and Intervention in the Guatemalan Political Situation

DATE OF REPORT 1 May 1962

NO. OF PAGES 2

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

9 to 13 April 1962

PLACE &

DATE ACQ. Mexico, Mexico City (9 to 13 April 1962)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Persons (B) with close connections in the PGT in Mexico City.  
 Appraisal of Content: 2

- On 9 April Osmir ~~Fernandes~~ <sup>Concepcion</sup> ~~la~~ Cuban Communist, met with members of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT - Guatemalan Communist Party), and said that the assistance being given by Cuba to the Mexican 13 November group, (members of the November 1960 attempt to overthrow the Government of Guatemala) who left Mexico for the Guatemalan mountains, has not been thoroughly analyzed in a political sense inside Guatemala. He believes that the PGT opposes Cuba's aid because the PGT would like all assistance, even the smallest amount, to remain under its control. Fernandes was told that there were some reservations on the part of certain members of the PGT, however, they realized that Cuba's aid to the 13 November group would have important political effects since the 13 November military men realized that the aid being given by Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba, was not limited to mere words, but was backed up by action. Fernandes felt that perhaps the PGT underestimated the guerrilla group organized in Mexico and for that reason was reluctant to support it. However, he was told that it was not that the PGT underestimated the group, but rather felt that the Cubans lacked a complete understanding of the Guatemalan political and military situation.
- Fernandes said that the money to aid to the 13 November group in Mexico was given to Alfonso ~~Prera~~ <sup>Prera</sup>, a leader of the 13 November group in Mexico, because it was Prera who expressed such interest in receiving it. Fernandes said that he first met with Rogelio ~~Rodriguez~~ <sup>Rodriguez</sup> Lopez, Third Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico, and with other trusted members of the Cuban Embassy and explained the determination of the 13 November group in Mexico to aid the Guatemalan revolution. According to Fernandes, Habana was consulted and Castro gave instructions that assistance be given immediately to 13 November group and that encouragement should be given to the guerrilla fighters. Fernandes said that in keeping with the Second Habana Declaration, assistance should be given to burying imperialism. Fernandes said, "It isn't a matter of standing around with Arab fatalism and await for events to take place with the assistance of our indifference; on the contrary, we should

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intervene efficiently so as to precipitate the death of imperialism. Because of this we are ready to help anyone who may decide to struggle against imperialism anywhere." Fernandez then began to criticize Prera, saying that he is an unscrupulous individual who is very fond of money and continues to do everything possible to get more and more money for himself without stopping to realize the important purpose for which the Cuban money is destined. Fernandez feels that if Prera does not continue to receive personal financial aid from the Cubans, he will reveal all the details of Cuba's intervention in this matter.

- re support & subject of 12 by Cuba 4/62*
3. On 13 April Fernandez again met with members of the PGT and said that it was important to continue to support Marco Antonio Yon Sosa, leader of the 13 November guerrilla group in Guatemala. Fernandez said that Yon's group has demonstrated a desire to fight and a great military ability. He said that the PGT favored Carlos Paz Tejada, head of the Partido de Unidad Revolucionario, (PUR - United Revolutionary Party, extreme leftist party), over Yon because Paz is more receptive to Communist ideas, and felt that this was not an intelligent attitude.

- subject over YCN 4/62*
4. Fernandez said that Cuba was concerned over the negative attitude of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, former President of Guatemala who is now in Cuba, toward the Guatemalan situation. Fernandez said that the Cubans have been trying to encourage Arbenz to take a more active role in the Guatemalan struggle. However, unfortunately Jose Manuel Fortuny, prominent Guatemalan Communist and advisor to Arbenz, continues to exert a very bad influence on Arbenz. The Cubans would prefer that Fortuny handle press or radio matters and not try to handle military matters. He said that the Cubans were working very hard in order that Arbenz could return to Guatemala and start a popular struggle, but have become discouraged and now realize that while Fortuny continues to influence Arbenz, they will not succeed. Fernandez said that the Cubans are seriously concerned that Fortuny is awarded so much importance by the PGT.

Field Comments:

- Ch. 2*
1. It was reported previously that an unidentified young and trusted member of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP - Cuban Communist Party) arrived in Mexico as an emissary of the Cuban Government, and gave \$10,000 (U.S.) to the 13 November group in Mexico to be used to aid the guerrilla fighting in Guatemala. This courier, who referred to himself as "Osvaldo" has now been definitely identified as Fernandez. Fernandez returned to Habana on 20 April 1962. (CF. HMM-6246, HMM-6250)
  2. It was reported previously that the Mexican 13 November group left Mexico on 18 March 1962. (CF. HMM-6284)
  3. It has been reported previously the members of the PGT in Mexico were upset when the Cuban Government contacted the 13 November group in Mexico instead of the PGT. (CF. HMM-6246)
  4. Castro gave official instructions to turn the money over to Prera because he had received favorable information of each member of the 13 November Group in Mexico and their willingness to return to Guatemala. (CF. HMM-6250).

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